



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/648,947	08/25/2000	Robert Michael Blood	IDS-113250	6819

7590

05/05/2004

Samuel H Dworetsky
AT&T Corporation
PO Box 4110
Middletown, NJ 07748

EXAMINER

TAYLOR, BARRY W

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
----------	--------------

2643

DATE MAILED: 05/05/2004

13

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/648,947

Applicant(s)

BLOOD ET AL.

Examiner

Barry W Taylor

Art Unit

2643

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on ____.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-14 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) ____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-14 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) ____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on ____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date ____.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. ____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: ____.

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

This application currently names joint inventors. In considering patentability of the claims under 35 U.S.C. 103(a), the examiner presumes that the subject matter of the various claims was commonly owned at the time any inventions covered therein were made absent any evidence to the contrary. Applicant is advised of the obligation under 37 CFR 1.56 to point out the inventor and invention dates of each claim that was not commonly owned at the time a later invention was made in order for the examiner to consider the applicability of 35 U.S.C. 103(c) and potential 35 U.S.C. 102(e), (f) or (g) prior art under 35 U.S.C. 103(a).

1. Claims 1-14 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Skiar (5,923,743) in view of Jouper et al (5,754,455 hereinafter Jouper).

Regarding claims 1, 7 and 14. Skiar teaches telephony distribution system for use in passenger aircraft (abstract). Skiar teaches Cabin Delivery System (see CDS top right figure 2) having built-in distribution boxes (see ADB figure 2) and Seat Electronic Boxes (see SEB figure 2) servicing handsets (see 63 figure 2, columns 3-4).

Art Unit: 2643

Skiar teaches detecting data signals (see CEPT E1 signals col. 5 line 61) and comparing data signals using comparators (column 6). Skiar also detects voltages using comparators (column 7). Skiar further shows detecting presence of distribution faults (col. 10 lines 19-65).

Skiar does not explicitly show indicating.

Jouper also teaches a load distribution and management system (abstract, columns 1-2). Jouper teaches fault lines and power available lines used (column 3) and indicating system status (col. 3 lines 62-67). Jouper shows both AC and DC detect using comparators (column 4). Jouper further shows using latching relay to latch values of the faults and driving display (44 figure 1, column 6) or indicating faults to another display (column 9). Jouper also indicates to the user whether power is available before user attempts to draw power (col. 9 lines 63-64). Jouper also teaches logging faults (column 10).

Therefore it would have been obvious to any one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to use latching circuitry as taught by Jouper for the benefit of indicating faults, as well as indicating that power is available to the user as taught by Jouper.

Regarding claims 2 and 9. Skiar does not show using relay bank as a function of voltage indication.

Jouper also teaches a load distribution and management system (abstract, columns 1-2). Jouper teaches fault lines and power available lines used (column 3) and

Art Unit: 2643

indicating system status (col. 3 lines 62-67). Jouper shows both AC and DC detect using comparators (column 4). Jouper further shows using latching relay to latch values of the faults and driving display (44 figure 1, column 6) or indicating faults to another display (column 9). Jouper also indicates to the user whether power is available before user attempts to draw power (col. 9 lines 63-64). Jouper also teaches logging faults (column 10).

Therefore it would have been obvious to any one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to use latching circuitry as taught by Jouper for the benefit of indicating faults, as well as indicating that power is available to the user as taught by Jouper.

Regarding claims 3, 5 and 10-11. Skiar teaches detecting E1 signals (col. 1 lines 27-50, col. 5 line 61 – col. 7 line 29, col. 8 lines 57-59).

Regarding claims 4 and 12. Skiar teaches envelope comparator (col. 6 lines 34-67) used for voltage level detection.

Regarding claims 6 and 13. Skiar teaches widening E1 signals (col. 6 lines 34-50, col. 8 lines 13-67).

Regarding claim 8. Skiar teaches Cabin Delivery System (col. 1 lines 28-54) with zoned telephony boxes (col. 3 line 66 – col. 4 line 12).

Art Unit: 2643

2. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Barry W. Taylor whose telephone number is (703) 305-4811. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday from 6:30am to 4pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Curtis Kuntz can be reached on (703) 305-4708. The fax phone number for this Group is (703) 872-9306.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to Technology Center 2600 customer service Office whose telephone number is (703) 306-0377.


CURTIS KUNTZ
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2600